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From: Doug Buckmaster [mailto:dougb@thegrid.net]  
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2005 3:12 PM  
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov  
Subject: MLPAComments: MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force

SLO Coast Alliance  
1965 Emmons Road  
Cambria, CA 93428

February 22, 2005

MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force  
c/o California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: MLPA Initiative

Gentlemen:

The SLO Coast Alliance (SCA) is a consortium of 36 environmental organizations with over 22,000 supporters who are deeply interested in the Central Coast, primarily in the coast itself, but also the creatures of the sea and the watersheds which contribute to it.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the definition of the Central Coast at the MLPA workshop in Morro Bay on February 17. We would like to submit these comments regarding the potential study region boundaries. The SCA supports an MPA study region encompassing Point San Pedro to Point Conception. This region includes:

- " The only persistent upwelling
- " Healthy kelp forests
- " The Morro Bay National Estuary, a marine life nursery for the entire Central Coast
- " Point Conception as a logical biophysical boundary for currents and marine life
- " Multiple research facilities and programs in the northern section to contrast with the San Luis Obispo Region

SLO Coast Alliance believes that Point San Pedro would be a logical northern boundary because it contains the entire Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, fostering a stronger partnership between those Federal and State agencies charged with protecting marine resources.

We strongly support the MLPA initiative and appreciate very much this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Doug Buckmaster  
Secretary-Treasurer